



United States Department of  
Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Ohio Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
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No. 1 March 31, 2003

# OHIO

## WEEKLY CROP - PROGRESS SUMMARY

### OHIO CROP-WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

The average temperature for the State was 51.7 degrees, 7.5 degrees above normal for the week ending Sunday, March 30. Precipitation averaged 0.86 inches, 0.15 inches above normal. Growing degree days were 20 points above normal.

Reporters rated 2.4 days suitable for fieldwork during the seven-day period ending Friday, March 28. This is 1.8 days more than last year and 1.1 days less than the five-year average. Topsoil moisture was rated 0 percent very short, 3 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 33 percent surplus.

#### Days Suitable

|                   | Current week | Previous week | Since 1 <sup>st</sup> week of April |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2003              | 2.4          | NA            | 2.4                                 |
| 2002              | 0.6          | NA            | 0.6                                 |
| 1998-2002 Average | 3.5          | NA            | 3.5                                 |

#### Topsoil Moisture

|                     | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Current Week        | 0          | 3     | 64       | 33      |
| Last Week           | NA         | NA    | NA       | NA      |
| Same Week Last Year | 0          | 2     | 49       | 49      |
| 1998-2002 Average   | 2          | 15    | 65       | 18      |

### FIELD ACTIVITIES AND CROP PROGRESS WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

Reporters estimated **Tobacco** growers have 20 percent of their beds seeded. Six percent of tobacco beds have visible plants up. **Winter wheat** is one percent jointed, this is three percent below last year and the five year average. One percent of the **Oat** crop has been planted. This is four percent below 2002 and 10 percent below the five year average.

Farmers in Ohio began prepping their equipment for the spring planting season. Most tillage work was put on hold until the fields have dried out. However, Amish farmers were seen plowing their fields. Producers reported purchasing seed and chemicals. Some began seeding cover crops, planting vegetables, fertilizing fields and spreading manure. Farmers continued removing stored grain and hauling it to local elevators.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

Pasture conditions continue to improve with warmer weather toward the end of March. Reporters rated 49 percent of pasture good and 36 percent fair. Grass has begun to grow but more time is needed before cattle will have adequate forage.

Livestock producers rated 66 percent of their animals in good condition with spring calving proceeding as normal. Some producers continue to feed hay until pasture conditions improve.

### PERCENT PROGRESS OF CROPS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

| Crop                          | 2003 | 2002 | 1998-02 Average | Previous Week |      |
|-------------------------------|------|------|-----------------|---------------|------|
|                               |      |      |                 | Ohio          | U.S. |
| Corn planted for grain        | 0    | 1    | 0               | NA            | NA   |
| Oats planted                  | 1    | 5    | 11              | NA            | NA   |
| Potatoes planted              | 0    | 0    | 1               | NA            | NA   |
| Tobacco beds sown or floated  | 20   | NA   | NA              | NA            | NA   |
| Tobacco beds having plants up | 6    | 1    | 2               | NA            | NA   |
| Winter Wheat jointed          | 1    | 4    | 4               | NA            | NA   |

### PERCENT CONDITION OF MAJOR CROPS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

| LIVESTOCK     | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Current Week  | 0         | 2    | 22   | 66   | 10        |
| Previous Week | NA        | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA        |
| Previous Year | 0         | 3    | 24   | 62   | 11        |
| PASTURE       | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Current Week  | 1         | 9    | 36   | 49   | 5         |
| Previous Week | NA        | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA        |
| Previous Year | 5         | 11   | 48   | 33   | 3         |
| WINTER WHEAT  | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Current Week  | 2         | 4    | 20   | 56   | 18        |
| Previous Week | NA        | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA        |
| Previous Year | 3         | 9    | 39   | 41   | 8         |

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SUNDAY MARCH 30

|                 | Temperature |      | Precipitation |       | Growing Degree Days <sup>1/</sup> |      |
|-----------------|-------------|------|---------------|-------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Region          | Last Week   | Dev. | Last Week     | Dev.  | Last Week                         | Dev. |
| Northwest       | 49.2        | 7.1  | 0.85          | 0.21  | 41                                | 20   |
| North Central   | 50.6        | 8.4  | 0.93          | 0.30  | 43                                | 22   |
| Northeast       | 51.1        | 9.3  | 0.94          | 0.27  | 45                                | 22   |
| West Central    | 51.6        | 7.8  | 0.95          | 0.24  | 46                                | 20   |
| Central         | 52.5        | 7.6  | 0.97          | 0.28  | 51                                | 21   |
| Central Hills   | 51.6        | 8.3  | 1.02          | 0.33  | 46                                | 20   |
| Northeast Hills | 52.1        | 8.1  | 0.76          | 0.10  | 46                                | 18   |
| Southwest       | 52.9        | 6.9  | 1.00          | 0.16  | 52                                | 20   |
| South Central   | 53.3        | 6.3  | 0.62          | -0.17 | 57                                | 18   |
| Southeast       | 52.2        | 6.6  | 0.61          | -0.10 | 54                                | 20   |
| STATE           | 51.7        | 7.5  | 0.86          | 0.15  | 48                                | 20   |

1/ Modified Growing degree days, base 50 - ceiling 86.

**NOTE:** Our crop weather release is available by e-mail. To subscribe type in the Internet address of: nass-state-releases@news.usda.gov. Enter the following line in the body of the message; subscribe oh-crop-weather. Also check out our Home Page at http://www.nass.usda.gov/oh/. We are currently developing and adding more to our home page each week.

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